



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

Nashrat Al-Sabah



March 27, 2007

Darfur

- UN Envoy to Sudan Jan Eliasson and AU Senior Mediator Salim Ahmed Salim met yesterday with leaders of the Umma, Communist, and Popular Congress Parties. The meeting emphasized the need to end the Darfur crisis imminently before more lives are lost. Umma Party leader Al-Saddig Al-Mahdi affirmed his party's support for the deployment of UN forces to Darfur to protect civilians. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- U.S. Charge d'Affaires Cameron Hume met yesterday with Presidential Adviser Magzoub Al-Khalifa and discussed progress on implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement. (*Sudan TV*)

UN focus on humanitarian issues in Sudan

- UN Undersecretary for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes stated yesterday that aid workers in Darfur are frequently prevented from doing their jobs because the government denies them access to certain areas. Holmes also rejected the government's proposal to provide permanent protection for humanitarian convoys using military personnel or police, saying it "undermines the impartiality of NGOs operating in Darfur." During a visit to the South Sudan capital of Juba, Holmes met Government of Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Vice President Riek Machar, as well as UN officials. He called for a political solution to the Darfur crisis. "If there isn't a peaceful resolution in Darfur, it is much harder to maintain peace in the rest of Sudan, including in the South," Holmes pointed out. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Continuing fallout from ICC announcement

- Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir refused yesterday to cooperate with the International Criminal Court which has accused two Sudanese,

including a senior government official, of war crimes in Darfur. Ahmed Haroun, Sudan's current minister of state for humanitarian affairs, "will not resign or be fired and will not be interrogated," Al-Bashir said. The president's remarks came after last week's announcement by Sudan's chief prosecutor that Haroun would be questioned over crimes in the troubled western Sudanese region, despite having been cleared of any wrongdoing by the Sudanese judiciary. (*Al-Sudani*)

Omdurman incident aftermath

- The Ministry of Justice announced yesterday that it has begun an investigation into last Saturday's clashes between elements of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and police in Omdurman. Meanwhile, the SLM announced that it would only collect the bodies of SLM members killed in the gun battle after the government releases SLM detainees. (*Rai Al Shaab*)

China-Sudan relations

- Sudan's Finance Minister Al-Zubeir Ahmed Al-Hassan refuted reports that Sudan's national budget is facing collapse. He denied reports that China would help Sudan resolve its budgetary crisis through loans. Commercial relations between the two countries are based on the implementation of development projects, not loans, he added. (*Alwan*)

Quote of the Day:

"We will evacuate the militias outside of Khartoum using force." – Police Director General Mahjoub Saad.

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.